

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 19429 051505Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 FEAE-00 DODE-00
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 EPA-04 PM-04 H-02 PA-02
PRS-01 USIA-15 /119 W
-----057485 051522Z /44

R 051457Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5130
INFO ERDA WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN MD
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 19429

USEEC

DEPT PLS PASS NRC; ERDA WASHDC FOR SIEVERING,
GERMANTOWN FOR LIVERMAN; NRC FOR LAFLEUR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR
SUBJECT: UF6 LEAK AT PIERRELATTE, FRANCE

1. IT HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THAT A LARGE QUANTITY OF NATURAL URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE ESCAPED ON JULY 1 FROM THE COMURHEX PLANT AT PIERRELATTE. THE RESULTING HF CLOUD WAS REPORTED TO BE A COUPLE OF KILOMETERS LONG. HOWEVER, COGEMA STAFF STATES THAT THE LOCAL PARTICULATE UO₂F₂ CONTAMINATION IS NOT SERIOUS AND THAT STRONG WINDS QUICKLY DISPERSED THE CLOUD. NINE PLANT EMPLOYEES WERE KEPT UNDER OBSERVATION FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND RELEASED APPARENTLY WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT INJURY.

2. COMMENT: IT SEEMS THAT THIS IS NOT A PARTICU-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 19429 051505Z

LARLY SERIOUS INCIDENT AND OF A TYPE THAT HAS OCCURED IN THE US. OUTSIDE OF THE IMMEDIATE SITE VICINITY IT IS ESSENTIALLY A CHEMICAL AND NOT A RADIOACTIVE INCIDENT. JUST THE SAME, THIS INCIDENT IS AND WILL BE USED IN THE CAMPAIGN OF THE OPPONENTS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN FRANCE. THE OFFICIAL REACTION, PERHAPS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ABOVE, HAS BEEN

UNUSUALLY STRONG AND INCLUDED A COMMENT BY PRIME
MINISTER BARRE EMPHASIZING THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY IS
NECESSARY IN FRANCE.
GAMMON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, URANIUM, NUCLEAR HAZARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS19429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770238-0214
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770791/aaaadbrn.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 90195171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1966004
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UF6 LEAK AT PIERRELATTE, FRANCE
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/90195171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009